developing countries as regard the telephonic system in the world:

(b) what are the details of the progress in this regard; and

(c) what is the Government's view on the achievement of targets fixed in this regard for the period 1992—95?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) By increasng the availability of as well as accessibility to reliable and efficient telecom services throughout the country, matching international standards.

(b) The modernisation programme under the draft Eighth Plan includes, among others, the following:

- Full automatisation of the network by March 1994.
- Provision of electronic switching equipment (digital) at exchanges progressively.
- Provision of the most reliable transmission media through optical fibre, radio medium, satellite communication, etc.
- Speedy message transmission through further induction of Store and Forward Message Switching System.
- Computerisation of customer services like directory enquiry, manual trunk service, billing etc.
- Provision of value added services like voice/electronic mail, video/audio conferencing, radio-paging, cellular phones etc.

(c) The draft 8th Plan targets for the period 1992 to 1995 are expected to be achieved subject to availability of required resources.

Delinking of towns around Delhi by MTNL

798. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, proposes to delink the towns like Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Ghaziabad from MTNL telephone network;

(b) if so, whether Government had made an assessment of the difficulties that would inevitably result from the proposed delinking, creating uncalled for delays and hurdles in the smooth flow of communication between the capital and the skirting towns;

(c) whether Goverament have received protests and demands from the public, particularly the trade and industry, affected thereby, not only against this delinking of such towns, but for connecting other skirting industrial towns like Gurgaon with MTNL network to facilitate development thereof for purpose of decongesting Delhi; and

(d) what is the Government's response thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. A notice inviting views of the public regarding definition of local areas of Delhi system, and other peripheral towns was recently published.

(b) All these places will continue to work on direct dialling basis with Delhi system and no delays or hurdles are anticipated in the smooth flow of communications between the Capital and these skirting towns.

(c) Yes Sir, but in view of the position explained above, the skirting towns will continue to have direct dialling facility with the Delhi system. Representations have been received from Gurgaon and other peripheral towns that they should be allowed to be linked with Delhi on local charge basis.

(d) The Government fully appreciated the necessity to provide an efficient Telecom network to link up large cities with peripheral areas to help decongestion

the cities. With a view to achieve this it is proposed to provide direct dialling between such locations. It also proposed to have a special tariff for such a telecom service, for application all over the country.

Re-employment of retired persons in M.T.N.L.

799. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing tendency for re-employment of retired persons in the M.T.N.L. although the same practice is not there in other Telecom Circles/District of the country;

(b) how many persons are at present on re-employment either as consultant or on other parts; and

(c) what are the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to discourage such practices of MTNL?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) No Sir, re-employment of retired persons is normally not encouraged except where it is felt to be in the interest of the Corporation to do so. Presently, only 19 officers of the Corporation have been re-employed after retirement.

(c) Re-employment is strictly restricted to those cases where it is felt necessary to avail of the expertise of the retired official which is otherwise not readily available with the organisation. Such cases are very limited in number.

Use of International Maritime Satellite

800. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of International Maritime Satellite (NMAR SAT) is not allowed on land;

(b) if so, what are the details therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to permit its use on land;

(d) if so, the details of the decision taken; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (e) Since it is planned to develop land mobile satellite based services of our own under the national plans, use of land mobile services through INMARSAT is generally not allowed. However use of INMARSAT terminals on the Indian soil is allowed on a case to case basis, mainly in the case of projects located in remote areas deprived of adequate telecommunication facilities.

Time rotation of technical experts in DOT/circles

801. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of action taken, so far or proposed to be taken to utilise the technical manpower evenly in the country by time rotation of technical experts of the Telecom. Department and of its circles including M.T.N.L. units;

(b) whether some senior Officers are serving in Delhi Telephones for unprecedented number of years and some even working for more than 10 years in different capacities; and

(c) what are Government's plans for rotation of such officers in order to maintain the all India Character of service and proportionate distribution of technical expertise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Telecom experts are members of All India Gr. 'A' and Gr. 'B' Services and are being transferred to man the technical posts throughout the country as